GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6443
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2000
LONG ROTATIONAL NATURAL FORESTS
VISHNU DATT

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the original long rotation natural forests in India are left only one per cent of geographical forests of India; and

(b) if so, the causes of this loss and the steps taken by the Government to prevent further loss in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover of the country with the help of satellite data. As per the latest State of Forest Report, 1997, forest cover of the country is 19.27%, out of which dense, open and mangrove forests are 11.17%, 7.95% and 0.15% respectively. No separate assessment has been made about the extent of original long rotation natural forest in the country.

(b) Ministry has requested the concerned State/UT Governments to take serious note of the depletion of forest cover and to make in depth analysis of the factors contributing to the depletion of forest cover, to evolve effective strategy and action programme for arresting the trend so as to increase the forest cover in the coming years. The major steps taken by the Government to increase the forest cover are :

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests..

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

(v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Recently, Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources